

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

2 November 1977

John Gavin, Esq.  
Office of Legal Counsel  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear John:

Further in line with our telephone conversation of 31 October, I am furnishing you, for whatever action you deem appropriate, the following information concerning another incident which further demonstrates the difficulties which might arise in connection with any CIA program to investigate, identify, locate and assist alleged victims of this Agency's support of MKULTRA-type research activities in the 1950s and 1960s.

On 26 October [REDACTED] an employee of the [REDACTED] contacted the Office of the Inspector General here at the Agency and related the following information. His wife, whose maiden name is [REDACTED] was previously married from 1955 until 1960 to [REDACTED] who was employed by CIA at that time. In the summer of 1956, according to [REDACTED] she accompanied her husband to the farm of her husband's supervisor for dinner, drinks and wine. She believes her husband worked for Dr. Gottlieb who was Chief of the Technical Services Staff Chemical Division and heavily involved in MKULTRA activities. Her next recollection is receiving electric shock treatments at George Washington University Hospital for some time, followed by a convalescent period of several weeks at home. She then recalls being referred by her husband's supervisor to a friend of the supervisor's at the "Boston Psychiatric Hospital." She and her husband, [REDACTED] went to Boston where she entered that Hospital. Both her husband and his supervisor visited her there and she recalls a strange walk out of doors with the latter. She also remembers taking various tests at the Hospital. [REDACTED] suffered a "relapse" and required psychiatric care two years ago, but apparently has since "come out of it." The recent Senate hearings and attendant publicity concerning Project MKULTRA prompted [REDACTED] to review the Senate transcripts which he found contained information supportive of his wife's recollections. [REDACTED] did not ask for any specific action or relief. He has been advised and voiced no objection regarding our opinion that this matter should not be investigated directly by CIA at this time but should be referred to Justice for consideration.

66-807-1-5351



We have been able to confirm from Agency records that [REDACTED] was in fact employed by the Agency from [REDACTED]. He held degrees in chemical engineering and was assigned to the [REDACTED] from [REDACTED]. It appears he worked in the [REDACTED] under Dr. Gottlieb from [REDACTED] when he was assigned to [REDACTED]. He was married to [REDACTED] in January 1955. The marriage was dissolved by an [REDACTED] divorce in February 1960 although they had been separated in 1959 or 1960 while residing in Cambridge, Massachusetts. [REDACTED] now lives in Arlington, Virginia. Thus far, although a further review of medical records is underway, no evidence has been found that the then [REDACTED] was ever hospitalized for any reason or that she was ever the subject of research performed by the Agency, its components or employees.

For your information, the [REDACTED] was involved in six subprojects of Project MKULTRA from 1952 until 1961, all of which appear to have involved testing of LSD and other substances on human subjects.

This matter obviously deserves further investigation to clarify, by confirming her suspicions or allaying her fears, the basis for whatever emotional distress [REDACTED] may continue to suffer. Of course it may not be possible at this date to gather sufficient evidence to accomplish either result. In any event, however, it does not appear appropriate for CIA to conduct this investigation, even insofar as questioning [REDACTED] who has already contacted an Agency official on 31 October to inform CIA of the fact that his wife had related these allegations to him. Since it might appear to some that CIA has an interest in not confirming that individuals were in fact "victimized" by MKULTRA-type activities, the Agency could be accused at some point, in this or any other investigation of the same general nature, of having influenced the recollections or statements of those involved or of having not conducted the investigation in a proper manner. Should these matters proceed to litigation, this perceived conflict of interest on the part of CIA or its employees could become particularly damaging.

The Agency continues to be anxious to do everything possible to assist those who may have been adversely affected by MKULTRA-type activities. However, the complications surrounding any action contemplated by CIA itself continue to plague us, as the above-described case again illustrates. We shall be happy to assist you further, in any way you may deem necessary, in achieving a satisfactory resolution of these difficult problems.

Very truly yours,

Approved for Release  
Date Oct 1991

[REDACTED]  
Assistant General Counsel